



THE URBAN DISTRICT OF AUDENSHAW.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1914.

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For the Year 1914.



Area of District in Acres.....	1,165
Population 1901 (Census)	7,216
Population 1911 (Census)	7,978
Population 1913 (estimated to middle of year)	8,185
„ 1914 „ „	
General Death Rate per thousand of population, 1913	15 63
„ „ „ 1914	13 65
Infant Death Rate per thousand births, 1913	140 6
„ „ 1914	13 40
Birth Rate per thousand of population, 1913	23 45
„ „ 1914	22 47

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF AUDENSHAW.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1914.

A. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

(1) PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Audenshaw is a flat district with a clayey subsoil. It is about 320 feet above the sea level. There are no rivers running directly through the area, but the river Tame forms the eastern boundary of the district.

The district is composed of a small well-populated area, and a larger area which is somewhat rural in character, the land being used chiefly for meadows and pasture land, a very small quantity being arable.

The area of the district is about 865·25 acres, without water, together with an area of 199·75 acres occupied by the Audenshaw Reservoirs belonging to the Manchester Corporation, making a total area of 1165

acres. These Reservoirs are situated in the more rural part of the district.

(2) POPULATION.

At the census of 1911 the population was 7978, while the population at the middle of this year was 8274.

At the census of 1911 there were 4.42 persons per inhabited house.

The population is chiefly an industrial one, the occupations of the people being somewhat varied. The chief industries are engineering, felt-hatting and subsidiary trades.

There are also many colliers, cotton operatives, and railway servants.

The amount of Poor-law relief for the year was £231 2s. 6d., which compares very unfavourably with last year, when the sum was £155 1s. 6d.; the difference is owing to the destitution due to the war.

There is a fair amount of gratuitous medical relief obtained from the Ashton and District Infirmary, and also from the Manchester Hospitals.

A very great deal of gratuitous work is also done by the District Nursing Association.

B. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is an ample and constant supply of very pure water furnished by the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Waterworks Committee, of which the Council are members as part owners.

The water is upland in character, and before being supplied to the district, any acidity is neutralized and the water is passed through mechanical filters and so is of excellent quality.

There are no wells or springs used for drinking purposes.

All houses have a water tap inside connected with the public supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Tame having passed through a thickly-populated area is somewhat polluted before it reaches the district, but being situated at a distance from the populous part of the area, it does not affect the health of the inhabitants. It merely forms the eastern boundary of the district, and is not polluted from the district.

By arrangement with the Manchester Corporation the sewage from a small portion of the district situated close to the Manchester boundary drains into the sewers of that Corporation and is treated by that authority.

The streams are not important, being only small, and no sewage is now turned into them ; the streams when near houses are mostly in culverts.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is well sewered on the combined system. The sewage is treated at the Dukinfield and Stalybridge Joint Sewage Works. The treatment chiefly consists in precipitation with lime and alumino-ferric, and subsequent filtration in the filter beds.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

There are at present four kinds of closet accomodations in the district which are as follows :—

Privy middens	122
Pail Closets	62
Fresh Water Closets	586
Waste Water Closets	1367

The privy middens are now being rapidly converted into closets with the water carriage system.

SCAVENGING.

The refuse from the houses is removed by contract, being carted to low-lying ground in the more rural part of the district.

The street scavenging is done by the staff employed by the Council, the sweepings being carted to same ground as the refuse.

During the year a large amount of work has been carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Doxey), and as a result of inspection 13 formal notices and 141 informal notices have been sent, and 135 nuisances have been remedied, 19 remaining unabated.

The following is a description of Inspections as supplied by the Inspector of Nuisances :—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Formal Notices sent	13	
Informal Notices sent	141	
		— 154
Nuisances remedied	135	
Nuisances unabated	19	
		— 154

Inspections :—

Visits and re-visits to Infected Houses ...	304
„ to Nightsoil Tips	90
Inspections of Factories and Workshops..	140
„ „ Bakehouses.....	25
„ „ Dairies and Cowsheds	73
„ „ Slaughterhouses	50
„ „ Offensive Trades	30
Drains Inspected	150
Infected Houses Disinfected.....	82
Smoke observations taken	3

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

There are no lodging houses or cellar dwellings in the district.

There are two offensive trades in the area ; they are Tripe-dressing and Fur-pulling ; they are both carried on in a satisfactory manner.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools is good ; and the water supply is the same as for the rest of the district.

There were no schools closed during the year.

The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out by the Lancashire County Council Education Committee.

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Examinations as to the quality of milk supplied in

the district are attended to by the County Police.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops in the district are in a satisfactory condition.

With a view to the prevention of tuberculosis all the dairy cows in the district have been inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon. All the cattle were found to be healthy.

(b) OTHER FOODS.

No unsound food has been found exposed for sale. All places where foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale are in a satisfactory condition.

The Bakehouses are in a good condition, and clean.

The Slaughter-houses in the district are all in good condition, and well kept. Frequent inspections of these are made whilst killing and meat-dressing are going on.

(c) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

These Acts are carried out by the County Police.

HOUSING.

There is usually ample open-air space about the houses, and the surroundings of the houses are kept in a cleanly condition.

The great majority of the houses are of the artizan dwelling class, a very large number, unfortunately, consisting only of two rooms upstairs and two downstairs.

Statement required by Article v. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, in

regard to the inspection of dwelling-houses under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Section	409
Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	None
Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders	None
Number of closing orders made	None
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	5
Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	None
General character of the defects found to exist in the dwelling-houses inspected...	Dampness in walls, roofs and floors

There have been constructed by private enterprise during the year 9 new houses, but none suitable for the working classes.

WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, &c.

In the district there are

Workshops	19
Bakehouses	8
Laundries	2

During the year 165 inspections have been made.

Two written notices of defects were sent and both the defects have been remedied.

C. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. There is for the district an Inspector of Nuisances who is also Assistant Surveyor.

2. There is ample accommodation for infectious diseases, the cases being sent to the Hyde Infectious Diseases Hospital. Five cases, all of scarlet fever, were sent during the year. There were no deaths.

Two beds are reserved for this Council at the Hospital, but more can be had if required.

There is also ample provision for small-pox at the Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge Small-pox Hospital at Hartshead, of which hospital this authority is part owner.

3. The following Acts are in force in the district :

- (1). The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890, adopted 5th March, 1891.
- (2). The Public Healths Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts 1, 2, and 3, adopted 5th March, 1891; Part 4, adopted 2nd July, 1913.
- (3). The Private Street Works Act, 1892, adopted 6th April, 1893.
- (4). The Infectious Diseases Notifications Act, 1889. Adopted 6th April, 1893.
- (5). The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, parts 2 and 3 and sections 52, 66 and 68 of part 4 (with certain variations), adopted 16th November, 1908 (date came into force).
- (7). Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889 Cerebro

Spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis), adopted 1st February, 1912.

(6). Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889 (Ophthalmia Neonatorum), adopted 7th July, 1910.

(8) Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893, adopted 3rd July, 1913.

Local Act. Audenshaw Urban District Council Act, 1908.

4- During the year one specimen of blood has been examined for the Enteric Fever reaction ; one throat swab was examined for diphtheria, and two samples of Human Sputum were examined for Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria Anti toxin is supplied free to necessitous cases.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 10 cases of Diphtheria during the year, 9 of them occurred during the first five months of the year, and one in November.

There were 4 cases of Erysipelas during the year. During the year there were 62 cases of Scarlet Fever, 43 of these were in children between 5 and 15 years of age. Most of the cases were in the first six and last three months of the year ; the large number was not peculiar to this district, as in all the surrounding townships scarlet fever was very prevalent.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever during this year. This is the first year during the last ten years in which there have been no cases of enteric fever.

Nearly all the cases of infectious diseases in the

district are treated at their homes, the patients being kept in one room; after the case has terminated the rooms are disinfected and sprayed with formalin.

Every case of infectious disease is visited and directions given for its control, as far as possible.

All clothing, bedding, &c. which has been used by an infected person is now disinfected by means of saturated steam.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS

Nine Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, two aged between 15 and 25 years; six between 25 and 45 years, and one between 45 and 65 years.

There were four cases of other forms of Tuberculosis notified, three between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and one case between 15 and 25 years. Each case was visited and enquiries were made as to what rooms were occupied by the patients, and they were all advised to allow the patients to have rooms to themselves, and advice given as regards disposal of expectoration.

When a case of tuberculosis has died or been removed, the papers are stripped from the walls of the rooms they have occupied, and afterwards the rooms are disinfected by fumigation and spraying with formalin, and the bedding disinfected with steam.

There is no Hospital or Sanatorium accomodation in the district for tuberculosis. All cases of tuberculosis as soon as notified are now notified to the Tuberculosis Officer at Ashton-under-Lyne.

(G) MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN
CHILD-BIRTH AND INFANCY.

The Midwives' Act, 1902, is administered by the County authority.

(H) VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year the number of births registered as belonging to the district was 186, giving the Birth Rate of 22·47 per 1,000 of the population.

There were born 104 males and 82 females.

The following table gives the number of births registered belonging to the district in each of the last ten years with the birth rates for the corresponding years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.
1904	200	26·6
1905	182	24·06
1906	184	24·08
1907	186	24·20
1908	189	24·3
1909	186	27·7
1910	160	20·2
1911	200	25·03
1912	180	22·21
1913	192	23·45
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Average for the years		
1904 to 1913	185	24·18

The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to the district was 5, two males and 3 females.

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to the district was 113, giving a death rate of 13·65 per 1,000 persons of the population.

There were 58 deaths of males and 55 of females.

The following table gives the number of deaths in each of the last ten years with the rate for each year :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
1904	108	14·3
1905	129	17·05
1906	108	14·13
1907	108	14·06
1908	113	14·52
1909	104	13·27
1910	87	10·99
1911	110	13·76
1912	104	12·83
1913	128	15·63
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Average for the years		
1904 to 1913	109	14·05

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year was 25, this gives a rate per 1,000 net births of 134.

The following table gives the number of infant deaths, and infant death rate for each of the last ten years :—

Year.	No. of		Infant
	Infant	Deaths.	Death Rate.
1904	30	150
1905	31	170
1906	21	114
1907	26	139
1908	35	185
1909	27	144
1910	24	150
1911	26	130
1912	26	144
1913	27	140
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Average for the years			
1904 to 1913	27	146

The causes and number of deaths of infants under one year of age were :—

Measles	1	Diarrhoea and Enteritis...	3
Whooping Cough	5	Injury at Birth	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	4	Premature Birth atrophy,	
Bronchitis	1	Debility, and Acid	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2	Marasmus	8

The following table shows the causes of all deaths during the year, the ages being grouped in periods :—

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Measles	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	7	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Causes of Death	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Influenza	1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4 ... 0 ... 0 .. 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 1 ... 1 ... 0								
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	6 ... 4 ... 0 ... 0 .. 1 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Cancer, malignant disease...	10 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 4 ... 5								
Organic Heart Disease...	12 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 3 ... 7								
Bronchitis.....	8 ... 1 ... 2 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 3								
Pneumonia (all forms)...	11 ... 2 ... 2 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 2 ... 2								
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3 ... 3 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 .. 0								
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0								
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1								
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth...	9 ... 9 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	4 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1 ... 1 ... 1 ... 0								
Suicide	1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0								
Other Defined Diseases...	21 ... 0 ... 1 ... 1 ... 1 ... 0 ... 2 . 12... 4								
Diseases ill-defined or unknown...	8 ... 0 ... 1 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 0 ... 2 ... 5								
Totals...	113	25	9	3	4	5	11	29	27

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases are Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, and Enteric Fever.

The diseases in this group were the cause of 13 deaths, giving a Zymotic death rate of 1·5 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year was 89.

This table shows the number of cases of each disease, and the age period in which the cases occurred :—

Notifiable Diseases. At all ages 1 to 5 5 to 15 15 to 25 25 to 45 45 to 65								
Diphtheria (including								
Membraneous Croup)	10	3	1	4	2	0	0	
Erysipelas	4	0	0	0	1	1	2	
Scarlet Fever	62	0	12	43	1	4	2	
Pulmonary								
Tuberculosis	9	0	0	0	2	6	1	
Other forms of								
Tuberculosis	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals.....	89	3	13	50	7	11	5	

The following table gives a comparison of the numbers of infectious diseases notified during the past ten years :—

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905
Diphtheria.....	10...	1...	3...	2...	5...	1...	8...	4...	4...	2
Erysipelas	4...	2...	3...	4...	2...	0...	2...	2...	2...	3
Scarlet Fever	62...	21...	18...	62...	68...	48...	47...	23...	60...	81
Enteric Fever	0...	4...	3...	1...	6...	7...	5...	2...	4...	20
Puerperal Fever	0...	2...	0...	0...	1...	1...	0...	1...	0...	2
Smallpox	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0	3...	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9...	11...	10...	5...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4...	7...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0...	0...	1...	2...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0
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Total ...	89	48	38	76	82	57	62	32	73	110

INFANT MORTALITY.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Measles	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	1
Whooping Cough	0...	1...	1...	2...	2...	0...	0...	5
Abdominal Tuberculosis	0...	0...	0...	1...	2...	1...	0...	4
Bronchitis	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	0...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	0...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	1...	2
Diarrhœa	0...	0...	0...	0...	1...	0...	0...	1
Enteritis	0...	0...	0...	1...	0...	1...	0...	2
Injury at Birth	1...	0...	1...	0...	0...	0...	0...	1
Premature Birth	6...	1...	7...	0...	0...	0...	0...	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1...	0...	1...	0...	0...	0...	0	1
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Totals ...	8	2	10	4	5	4	2	25

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population estimated to middle each year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District				
		Un- corrected Number	Nett Rate	Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year Number	At all Ages Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number Rate		
1909	7834	186	186	23.7	101	12.89	0	3	27	114	104	13.27
1910	7916	160	160	20.2	86	10.86	0	1	24	150	87	10.99
1911	7989	200	200	25.03	105	13.14	2	7	26	130	110	13.76
1912	8104	175	180	22.21	91	11.23	1	14	26	144	104	12.83
1913	8185	191	192	23.45	110	13.44	1	19	27	140	128	15.63
1914	8274	185	186	22.47	95	11.48	0	18	25	134	113	13.65
		Males, 104 Females, 82								Males, 58 Females, 55		

In conclusion, I am glad to say that I consider the general condition of the district to be good, the roads and streets are kept well cleaned and in good repair, and the main roads are well and regularly watered in dry weather, and with the gradual disappearance of the privy middens, which will probably be completed during the coming year, the district may be said to be in a good sanitary condition.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

D. HUBERT CHEETHAM, M.B., CH.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 25th, 1915.